

Application Serial No. 10/524,498
Reply to Office Action of July 24, 2007

PATENT
Docket: CU-4061

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated July 24, 2007, the Examiner states Claims 1-15 are pending, Claims 1-15 are rejected, and the Claim 13 is objected to. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends Claim 13.

In the Office Action, Claim 13 was objected to for including the term (TPE) in parentheses. The Applicant has amended the claim to remove (TPE), and therefore, this rejection should be deemed overcome.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-5 and 7-15 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron (U.S. 5,388,313) in view of Wong (U.S. 6,305,586). Claims 1-4 and 6-15 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron in view of Willinger (U.S. 6,306,329). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and transverses the rejections.

Cameron, Wong, and Willinger are distinguishable from the present invention. The present application claims a pacifier strap clip consisting of a two component injection-molded member. Cameron discloses a suspender clip of a single material. Furthermore, Cameron does not disclose a pacifier strap clip or the fastening bracket for connecting a pacifier strap to the clip as claimed in the present application.

Moreover, neither Wong nor Willinger claim a two component injection-molded member. Wong discloses a garment hanger with a clip having jaws 60, 70 which are provided with grip pads 80, 90 consisting of a material having lower hardness than the material of the clip jaws 60, 70. These grip parts are preferably adhered to the inner surface 65, 75 of clamping ends 64, 74 with adhesive or something similar. Therefore, the strip clamp of Wong is not similar to a one-piece pacifier strip clamp as claimed in the present application, where the strip clamp is a two component Injection-molded member with a surface of at least one clamping region consisting of a material having a lower hardness than the material of the clamping parts. The non-detachable connection due to the construction of the clip as a two component injection-molded member is an important feature of the present invention because of use by infants. Wong does not disclose the same non-detachable connection. Furthermore, a general statement that alternative to an adhesive or mechanical attachment, the clip pads may be attached to the clip jaws by co-molding does not

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render obvious a pacifier strap formed as a two component injection-molded member.

Willinger discloses a garment clip having clips consisting of materials that have a different hardness. However, Willinger does not disclose that the strapped clip may be formed as a two component injection-molded member as is claimed in the present invention. Rather, Willinger discloses clips 38 having pads 52, 56 which are preferably simultaneously co-molded with each clip and support bar with a second plastic material such as an olefin type plastic. (Column 3, lines 40-42). The plastic material of the pad 52, 56 is selected such that the pads 52, 56 will not fuse or bond with the clips 38. The nibs 52 provide a supplemental connection in the form of a mechanical interlock (Column 3, lines 52-54) because the clips 38 and the pads 52, 56 do not fuse or bond when co-molded. Therefore, Willinger does not disclose a two component injection molded member as claimed in the present application.

Accordingly, because none of the cited references disclose a two component injection-molded member, the cited references do not render the present invention obvious, and the present invention is clearly distinguishable over the cited prior art references.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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